

# COURSE CONDITIONS

## The best time to order game-changing products is before the game begins.

Be sure to ask about savings on the Spotlight Brands and get the greatest value by purchasing by October 31, 2015.

To learn more visit [GreenTrust365.com/Golf](http://GreenTrust365.com/Golf) or contact **Scott Trbovich**  
248.830.6065 | [Scott.Trbovich@Syngenta.com](mailto:Scott.Trbovich@Syngenta.com)



 **GreenTrust™ 365**

**syngenta®**

AT BLYTHEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

FUNDRAISER



# WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTS



# WORLD-CLASS SERVICE

Jacobsen is now serving golf, turf, municipal, and commercial customers directly in Michigan and Indiana. Rest assured, with the direct backing of Jacobsen and Textron, we will provide you the highest level of service and support.

We stock a comprehensive inventory of Jacobsen and allied parts and pledge to get what you need in short order. In addition to standard equipment service, we offer full hydraulic testing/repair and employ the latest grinding technologies on all makes and models of reels. **We also offer full mobile service.**

This change is part of Jacobsen and Textron's long-term commitment to provide Michigan and Indiana customers with quality products and services. You'll be hearing much more about the great things Jacobsen is doing in Michigan and Indiana, and we look forward to working with you.



5329 Clay Avenue SW Suite A Grand Rapids, MI 49548  
25125 Trans-X Road Novi, MI 48375  
1.800.398.0388 | [www.JacobsenGreatLakes.com](http://www.JacobsenGreatLakes.com)



Smithco





# COURSE CONDITIONS

SUPERINTENDENT SPOTLIGHT

COLLIN  
ROMANICK |

AT BLYTHEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB

MTESP 2.0

THE 49TH ANNUAL BIG  
EVENT FUNDRAISER

WESTERN GOLF DAY  
FUNDRAISER





# WORLD-CLASS PRODUCTS



# WORLD-CLASS SERVICE

Jacobsen is now serving golf, turf, municipal, and commercial customers directly in Michigan and Indiana. Rest assured, with the direct backing of Jacobsen and Textron, we will provide you the highest level of service and support.

We stock a comprehensive inventory of Jacobsen and allied parts and pledge to get what you need in short order. In addition to standard equipment service, we offer full hydraulic testing/repair and employ the latest grinding technologies on all makes and models of reels. **We also offer full mobile service.**

This change is part of Jacobsen and Textron's long-term commitment to provide Michigan and Indiana customers with quality products and services. You'll be hearing much more about the great things Jacobsen is doing in Michigan and Indiana, and we look forward to working with you.



5329 Clay Avenue SW Suite A Grand Rapids, MI 49548  
25125 Trans-X Road Novi, MI 48375  
1.800.398.0388 | [www.JacobsenGreatLakes.com](http://www.JacobsenGreatLakes.com)



Smithco



# CONTENTS

- 4** MiGCSA Membership Report
- 5** President's Perspective
- 6** MTESP 2.0
- 8** 2014 Assistant/Student Golf and Network Outing
- 10** Equipment Technician Meeting at Arcadia Bluffs
- 10** Calendar of Events
- 12** 23rd Annual G.W. Hamilton Cutter Cup
- 13** The 49th Annual Big Event Fundraiser
- 16** Off Course
- 22** 2015 Membership Renewal is Open
- 24** Industry Profile - Rob Pylar, Bayer CropScience
- 26** From National, GCSAA Update
- 28** 2014 Wee One Outing
- 33** Operation: Education Technician
- 34** A Call From Campus
- 36** Winter Preparation Meeting
- 37** The Western Golf Day Fundraiser
- 38** Association Update

14



*Collin Romanick, Superintendent,  
Blythefield Country Club*

20



*Heath Bronkema,  
Equipment Technician,  
Kalamazoo Country Club*

30



*Andrew Harrell,  
Assistant Superintendent,  
Country Club of Detroit*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**PRESIDENT** GREGG MATTHEWS -2016  
Greater Detroit-Class A  
Tam-O-Shanter C.C.

**VICE PRESIDENT** JEFF HOLMES, CGCS - 2017  
Western-Class A  
Egypt Valley C.C.

**SECRETARY/  
TREASURER** JUSTIN BICKEL - 2017  
Northern-Class A  
The Nightmare/Dream G.C.

**PAST PRESIDENT** GREG PATTINSON - 2016  
Greater Detroit-Class A  
Indianwood C.C.

**BOARD MEMBERS** BRAD FRY-2016                      DAVID J. PAWLUK, CGCS - 2015  
Western-Class A                      Detroit-Class A  
Harbor Shores Golf Club              The Inn at St. Johns

MARK OSTRANDER-2015              JIM BLUCK, CGCS - 2016  
Western-Class A                      Northern-Class A  
TThe Moors G.C.                      Forest Dunes

PHIL OWEN, CGCS-2015              MIKE ROSEN-2015  
Mid-Class A                      Northern-Class A  
Warwick Hills C.C.                      Ostego Club

JEFF SWEET, CGCS - 2017  
Mid-Class A  
Bucks Run G.C.

DAN DINGMAN - 2017  
Detroit-Class A  
Birmingham Country Club

**ASSISTANT  
LIAISON** TROY EVANS — 2015  
Greater Detroit-Class C  
Bloomfield Hills Country Club

**COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE** JUSTIN BICKEL                      DAN MAUSOLF  
Chairman                      MIKE MAUSOLF  
JEFF SWEET, CGCS                      COLLIN ROMANICK  
Vice Chairman                      ROB STEGER  
AL LYNCH

## COURSE CONDITIONS STAFF

**DESIGNER AND EDITOR**  
Cuppa' Jo Design  
info@CuppaJoDesign.com

**EDITOR**  
Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
adamikamas@migcsa.org

# MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## SUMMARY OF CLASSES 11/5/14

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	FALL 2013 MEMBERSHIP
<b>Class A</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Class SM</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Class AA</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Class AFF</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>157</b>
<b>Class D</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Class E</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Class H</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Class SA</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>707</b>

Please log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) to renew your membership for 2014. If you are unsure of your status contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org) or 1-888-3-MIGCSA.

### WATER PUMP SYSTEMS & MOTOR CONTROLS



### Terry Kerkstra

Design-Build  
Sales & Service

Direct Line  
**616 . 896 . 2036**

Tel 616 . 896 . 2008  
Cell 616 . 216 . 8884  
Fax 616 . 896 . 2003  
tkerkstra@cdi-mi.com

4246 Corporate Exchange Dr.  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
[www.cdi-mi.com](http://www.cdi-mi.com)

Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiGCSA. For more information on Course Conditions or the MiGCSA please contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org), 1-888-3-MIGCSA or 7113 Demerly Rd. Benzonia, MI 49616.

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



GREGG L. MATTHEWS

*The snow is falling and most of our courses are put to bed for the long winter ahead. What a season it has been here in southeastern Michigan. Many of us had one of the toughest starts we have ever endured. It has left many of us just worn down and looking forward to 2015. Forward planning and setting new goals for next season are in the works.*

*The MiGCSA is a leader in the nation with positive member and financial growth. This speaks volumes in a time when the growth of the golf industry has slowed. The MiGCSA Board of Directors has been forward planning through our Strategic Planning Meetings. We have another great year planned for 2015 with first class events, education and incredible networking opportunities. One amazing outcome of our November 4th Board meeting is a partnership with Northwestern Mutual Investments. The expert guidance of Northwestern Mutual will assist the MiGCSA with our financial security for the future. It was just 4 or 5 short years ago we had little to no financial stance. I am excited to announce we are now financially sound. We once again will be donating to the MTF as well as fund several scholarships this year from the great success of our 3 Foundation fundraisers. The support of you the members and all of our Industry Partners assist in making the MiGCSA the strong chapter it is today.*

*Please keep an eye out each month as we have an online auction. Auctioned items are donated by our Industry Partners. These items are products we all use and have been auctioned at amazing prices. This auction has supplemented the association's bottom line as 100% of the proceeds come directly to us. This is an excellent way to get great products at a super value and assist with the financial strength of your association.*

*As we head into a new year, please think about joining a committee or even the Board of Directors. We are always looking for new dynamic members to join the leadership of the MiGCSA. I am proud to be the President and part of such strong group of leaders.*

*I wish everyone and their families a happy and healthy Holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Turf Conference in January.*

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "GL Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gregg L. Matthews





# MTESP 2.0

WWW.MTESP.ORG

PROVIDED BY ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS, MTESP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This program is intended to organize efforts of state agencies, Michigan State University (MSU), and environmental advocacy groups to advance the environmental stewardship of the Turfgrass industry and to recognize environmental achievements. The program was developed at MSU with support from the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF), Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA), Golf Association of Michigan (GAM), Michigan Golf Course Owners Association (MGCOA), Michigan PGA Section (PGA), Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The Michigan Water Stewardship Program provides the base funding to develop and operate the program.

The roots of the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program actually go back to the 1980's when pesticide applicator & use regulations 636 & 637 were under development and nationally recognized research on nutrient & pesticide fate was underway at Hancock Center. At that time the turf industry requested a Turfgrass Environmental Specialist at MSU but the budget prevented a traditional hire. So the Turf Industry proposed to support this position through program fees only. In 1990 Dr. Frank Rossi was hired as a Turfgrass Environmental Specialist at MSU then in 1992 Greg Lyman replaced Dr. Rossi when he left for Wisconsin. In the time between 1995 and 1997 the Golf Industry proposed a Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program, and discussions begin with MSU & MDARD this is also when water use reporting begins on golf courses. So in 1998 the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) begins and by 1999 more than 120 Golf courses enrolled in the MTESP and the first 9 golf courses certified in MTESP. Greg Lyman left MSU in 2003 for a position at GCSAA and Debbie Swartz took over the MTESP leadership responsibilities, due to budget cuts to the program Debbie left in 2009 and Dr. Ron Calhoun (MSU) took the reins of the program. When Dr. Calhoun took his current position with Residex Dr. Kevin Frank took the lead for the

MTESP. At this time the program was funded at roughly 16% of the high water mark of \$180,000 with yearly funding of only \$30,000. With the program floundering with the lack of funding a new direction was needed to bring the program up to today's standards. So in 2013 I took on the program director position and embarked on the revitalization in the form of MTESP 2.0. Dr. Kevin Frank is still involved with the program with a research and extension position.

With the goal of moving the program to an online system the funding was doubled to \$60,000 to help build the new site and promote the program to golf courses and other turf professionals. Over the last year with the help of John Johnson and Kathy Antaya, MTESP Stewardship Specialists all of the program modules were reviewed by the DEQ and MDARD and digitized on the MTESP 2.0 website. If you are familiar with the modules of the program already you will easily be able to navigate through them again with the easy point and click website. It is very similar to any online survey you may have taken. The program consists of these 12 modules:

■ MTESP Welcome Pack	Complete
1. Program Overview	Not Started
2. Site Evaluation	In Progress
3. Wellhead Protection	Not Started
4. Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage	Not Started
5. Pesticide Mixing and Loading Pad	Not Started
6. Pesticide Handling and Application	Not Started
7. Fuel Storage	Not Started
8. Equipment Wash Pad	Not Started
9. Emergency Response	Not Started
10. Buffer Strips	Not Started
11. Green Purchasing, Conservation, & Waste Reduction	Not Started
12. Irrigation	Not Started





Each module has simple questions with multiple choice answers to evaluate the risk of each on your property. This information is private to each user and their property and will not be shared with any person or agency. The website does keep a running total of property features as a whole so we can provide the State Agencies and Legislators with valuable data on the programs total reach. Because of this please take the time to log in to the website and start with the site evaluation module, this is where this data is harvested.

Once you register at [www.mtesp.org](http://www.mtesp.org) you can log in and start the road to certification. While working on the modules you can stop and save at any time and come back later. If you have any questions while working on the modules there is a Q&A section at the bottom of every page. When you ask a question the Stewardship Specialists will be notified and will do their best to answer. You can also upload relevant files and photos to each module to document the improvement the program has implemented. Upon completion of all of the modules you can schedule a certification visit. Currently the cost of a visit is \$500 but the MTESP covers \$150 of that to reduce the total cost to \$350. The site visit will be a partial day with a Stewardship Specialist to certify all of the module information. Once the visit is complete and all of the module information has need certified you will receive a three year certification in the program with a re certification visit needed after the three years. Once certified the facility will be exempt from the Phosphorus legislation for applications. It will also provide a lower probability of a site visit by inspectors from the MDARD. There are also opportunities for press releases and certification ceremonies at your facility to promote the environmental efforts of completing the MTESP Certification process.

As a former Superintendent that did go through the certification process I can honestly say it is a very thorough examination of your environmental risks, and that is a good thing! I have heard that if you know you will not be able to be certified that it is better to not start the process and document your risks. I disagree, what you do not know can hurt you; ignorance on these issues is not bliss. If you can take a comprehensive look at where you may be exposed to environmental risk it will not change the fact that the risk exists. It will enable you to make better decisions on how to mitigate those risks. Not knowing is not an excuse that will work if there was to be an accident at your facility, knowing and working towards a solution is much better in the eyes of the agencies involved. Some facilities will not be able to afford a new fuel storage tank or a mix load pad and that is understandable. Even with that as a possible hurdle to be in the program at no cost to you at all is a no brainer. So get online and get registered this winter, and remember this is a new site and feedback is appreciated to make sure we are doing everything we can to be successful for you and your facility.

**LOG ON TO [WWW.MTESP.ORG](http://WWW.MTESP.ORG) AND START YOUR ROAD TO CERTIFICATION**

## DryJect of Michigan

### 21st Century Aeration

**Mark Frever**  
517-262-8282  
[mark\\_frever@comcast.net](mailto:mark_frever@comcast.net)

**Al Lefere**  
517-937-4413  
[allefere64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:allefere64@sbcglobal.net)

5240 Lansing Ave - Jackson, MI 49201

[www.dryject.com](http://www.dryject.com)

Twitter: @DryjectMI

## Supplies and solutions for professional turfgrass managers.

The stuff you need, when you need it. Delivering products and supplies to your door for more than 40 years. Residex is proud to partner with MiGCSA to serve Michigan's golf course superintendents with the turf industry's best-in-class brands.



# Residex

### Michigan locations:

Novi  
248-437-1427

Grand Rapids  
616-877-3744

Gaylord  
989-705-8180

To learn more, contact your Residex Rep, stop by a local branch, or visit [residex.com](http://residex.com)

## 2014 ASSISTANT/STUDENT GOLF AND NETWORK OUTING

BY: TROY EVANS, MiGCSA ASSISTANT LIAISON

The 3rd annual golf and network outing took place at College Fields in Okemos this September. Thank you to the students from the MSU turf club for their great participation and organization. We played a 9 hole scramble with 12 teams consisting of 2 students with 2 MiGCSA members. It has proven to be a great format and provides an opportunity for all to engage with one another. After the golf outing, the students were able to hear from a selected panel of Superintendent's and Assistants about topics they may consider as they get ready to embark on their journey to enter our industry. This event is open to all MiGCSA members and I really would encourage more people come out and enjoy an opportunity to meet some young exciting people who are the future of our industry.

I would like to give a very special Thank you to Mr. Carey Michelson of College Fields. Carey has been a great supporter of the turf club and our event.



The 2014 Panel Greg Bishop, Katie Heffron, Andrew Harrell and Andy Gianino.

A full house for lunch at College Fields







*Your greens are your signature.*  
**Now your fairways can make  
 a name for themselves, too.**



# Fairway Solutions

POWERED BY *StressGard™*

 Follow us on Twitter @BayerGolf



The **BackedbyBayer** app is available for download at the iTunes store.

## Introducing Bayer Fairway Solutions.

It's the first fungicide program developed specifically for fairways. Featuring new Fiata® StressGard™ and Mirage™ StressGard™, Bayer Fairway Solutions is the only plant health and disease management program designed with the fairway in mind. Finally, there's a fairway solution that delivers at the caliber of your greens program.

**Rob Pylar | 248-330-2638 | robert.pylar@bayer.com**

Bayer Fairway Solutions also includes:  
 Interface® StressGard™ | Tartan® StressGard™ | 26GT®

## EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN MEETING AT ARCADIA BLUFFS

A new venue of Arcadia Bluffs was on tap for the 2014 Equipment Technicians Meeting. Thank you to MiGCSA Members Paul Emling, Mike Nielsen, Pat Sullivan, Phil Klusner and Dan Heiss for hosting this event.

The day started at 7:30 with Registration, Coffee & Donuts provided by the 2014 Industry Partners. Doug Veine from The Bernhard Co. started the day with The Theory of Grinding, why we grind. Doug was followed up by Mike Thorsen from Jacobsen with Updated Hands on Hydraulic Testing. The last speaker of the day was John Garlits from Spartan Distributors on Tier 4 information & Lube Oil & Grease pertaining to golf course equipment. Lunch was served by the fantastic staff at Arcadia Bluffs again covered by the 2014 Industry Partners for this complimentary event. After lunch a handful of attendees went over to play golf at Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa thanks to MiGCSA Member Jason Farah.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, December 5	West Holiday Party (Cascades Sports Bar & Grill, Grand Rapids)
Friday, December 5	Mid Holiday Party (River Rock Bar & Grill, Holly)
Friday, December 12	Detroit Holiday Party (The Lodge at Keego Harbor, Keego Harbor)
Friday, January 9	Curling Fundraiser for Ice Research (Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale)
Mon-Wed, Jan. 19-21	Michigan Turf Conference (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
Monday, Jan. 19	MiGCSA Annual Meeting (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
Wednesday, February 4	Spring Management Meeting (The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth)
Mon-Fri, Feb 21-26	Golf Industry Show (Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center)
Wednesday, February 25	Michigan Gathering (TBD, San Antonio)

Please visit [www.MiGCSA.org](http://www.MiGCSA.org) for all of the latest and most up to date information. You can quickly and easily register for events, view past issues of Course Conditions, browse and post items for sale, post and browse classifieds, and so much more. If you need help logging in email us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org)



Control like this has always been out of reach. Until now.



## The new A Model Mowers from John Deere.

Now your presence can be felt on every part of your course. That's the control you get with the new A Model mowers from John Deere. Thanks to our TechControl display, no matter who is operating the mower, you can easily program these mowers to mow and turn at exact speeds, to transport at safe speeds, and to lock in fuel savings. You can also plug in service reminders and get diagnostic feedback quickly and accurately. And all of your operators can now perform in a more consistent fashion.

The power to control your course is now in your hands. To find out more about our new A Models, contact us for a demo today.

Trusted by the best courses on Earth.



[JohnDeere.com/Golf](http://JohnDeere.com/Golf)

**JW**TURF

(888) 959-8873 • [jwturf@foxvalley.net](mailto:jwturf@foxvalley.net) • [jwturfinc.com](http://jwturfinc.com)

## 23RD ANNUAL G.W. HAMILTON CUTTER CUP

BY: MICHAEL MCKEEL, MSU TURF CLUB



The 23rd G.W. Hamilton Memorial Cutter Cup was held on October 12th at Orchard Lake Country Club. The MSU won the event over PSU, 3-2. Players for the MSU team included Michael Wright, Michael McKeel, Travis Greer, Shawn Haverdink, and Nick Freeman. Caddies included Quinn Ostien, Brett Vande Heide, Travis Fritzma, Michael Rabe, and Dylan McKraken. All of the matches were hard fought, fortunately matches were won on the MSU side by both Michael Wright and Michael McKeel, with halves by both Shawn Haverdink and Nick Freeman. The weather and course could not have been better, a truly awesome experience for everyone who participated. Aaron McMaster did an excellent job with renovation and provided superb conditions for the event; everyone was blown away by the course. While playing against PSU was fun, getting to know the folks from PSU was even better and a lot of friends were made that day.



## SET YOUR SPRAY UP FOR HIGH PERFORMANCE.

Gulfstream™ adjuvant increases spray coverage and spreading for enhanced distribution and high plant uptake.

### WATER ALONE



### WATER WITH GULFSTREAM™



Learn more. Contact your local WinField representative or visit [www.winfieldprofessionalproducts.com](http://www.winfieldprofessionalproducts.com)

**Steve Fent 989-413-2536**  
**John Driver 616-430-3737**

# WINFIELD™

WinField and Gulfstream are trademarks of Winfield Solutions, LLC. © 2014 Winfield Solutions, LLC. Images are computer generated for reference only. Actual results may vary.



## THE 49TH ANNUAL BIG EVENT FUNDRAISER

The 49<sup>th</sup> year for the Big Event was a successful one. With 88 signed up for golf and over 100 at dinner we were able to raise close to \$5,000 on Monday October 6th at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club. Our host for the day was MiGCSA President Gregg Matthews along with MiGCSA Members Kyle Barton, Assistant and Tom Mungons Equipment Technician.

There are many sponsors to thank starting with Sue Shockey of Residex helped run a poker game contest on hole #8 that raised more than \$1,100 for the 50/50 split, \$550 went to the straight flush of the team of Kyle Barton, Tom Mungons, Patrick Stranahan and Jon Fritchges. Our hole sponsors were Donny Fischer and Tim Czelada of Mid-West Golf & Turf on #1, Eric Cowan from JW Turf on #5 who did the 50/50 won by Doug Johanningsmeier and raffled off two tickets to see the Lions take on the Packers in Lambeau field, Scott Inmann with VB Controls was on #7 doing pump house trivia, Jud Hudnut and Dar Howard from Residex were on #10 and they sponsored the hot dog lunch at the turn, Shaun Watson from Watson Golf manned hole #13 and Jim Higgs of Spartan Distributors set up on #16. Thank you also to Fusion Cast on #13 and Herman & Associates on #6 for their beverage sponsorships. And finally thank you to Todd Griebe for his \$250 donation and Brian Mavis for his donation of \$100.



*The winning team of Brian Schwehofer, Aaron McMaster, Trey Rogers and Dan Billette.*

Here were the winners from the day:

Proximity Prizes were sponsored by the 2014 Premiere Foundation Sponsors BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, Jacobsen, FIP Irrigation, Tri-Turf and LaFontaine Automotive.

Closest to the pins winners were: Kyle Barton, Al Perkins, Gary Brookshire & Justin Vande Vrede

Long drive winner: Al Perkins (he won all three!)

The MSU Turf Club putting contest was manned by Mike Rabe, Mike McKeel and Mike Wright and the 50/50 pot split was won by Rob Steger, CGCS with his putt to 5 ¾ inches.



*Host Superintendent, MiGCSA President Gregg Matthews*

The winning scramble teams were Derek Carroll, EJ Martin, Craig Henderson & Shaun Maher with a third place 61. Second place went to Doug Rusiecki, Greg Hodges, Charles Gaige & Gary Hodges with a scorecard playoff 60. The 2014 winning team of Trey Rogers, Aaron McMaster, Brian Schwehofer and Dan Billette won on the scorecard playoff with a birdie on #12 and a final score of 12 under 60.

The MiGCSA and MTF thank you for attending this event. 100% of the proceeds raised at this event will help fund scholarships, donations, and philanthropic interests like the Wee One Foundation, EIFG and the MSU Turf Club. But the vast majority will go directly to funding turf research at Michigan State University in donations to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Our next fundraiser will be January 9th at the Detroit Curling Club.

### THANK YOU 2014 PREMIERE FOUNDATION SPONSORS



## A FULL ROUND



# COLLIN ROMANICK

*Collin Romanick is the Superintendent at Blythefield Country Club. He has been married to his wife Jenne for ten years. He is a father of three, seven year old Ethan, five year old Ella, and Elise who is three. Collin was a business major when he took a job at a Cedar Chase in Cedar Springs during the summer. He was hooked immediately and never looked back. He is a Penn State Graduate and has been at Blythefield for 5 years as the Superintendent and was the Assistant before that.*

## WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ON THAT COURSE?

The back 9 was being constructed when I started and my first job was working with the irrigation contractor installing main lines. **When did you know that this was a job you wanted to do as a career?** About mid way through my first summer I realized how much I loved it and there was no way I could sit in an office all day. **What was your favorite job that first summer on a course?** Bunker construction. We built most of them by hand so I'm not sure why I enjoyed it so much. I was in the best shape of my life by the end of that summer though!

## HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I am on the board of the MTF and have served on committees for the MIGCSA as well.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I enjoy snowmobiling in the off season. We do an annual trip to the U.P. with a great group of golf course guys that I look forward to every year.

## DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

I do, my handicap is too high to publish! **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** Arcadia Bluffs. **What is the toughest golf course you have played?** PGA West Stadium Course. **What golf course you would love to experience once in your lifetime?** Bandon Dunes. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** My Rocketballz 3 wood, I think I can hit it further than my driver. **Who is your favorite touring professional?** Ricky Fowler

## WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

People management, trying to keep many different personalities all working toward a common goal can be challenging. **What is the easiest part of your job?** I always tell tardy crew members that being there is the easiest part of any job. I love my job and being here is the easiest part.

## WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?

Water restrictions will be an issue sometime down the road even here in Michigan I believe.

## WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

The assistant's role is very important. It is great having someone you trust when you are away and having an extra set of trained eyes on the course is helpful. I have two of the best in Jeff Starke and Katie Heffron.





#### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN?

Our mechanic, Stan Bulmer, is incredible. He's so talented; much of the quality conditioning we provide is because of him.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

The Chop House in Grand Rapids, I love a good steak. **What vehicle would you drive if you had a money tree growing in your yard?** Ferrari F430 Spider, a member at my club has one and I think he is tired of me drooling on it.

#### WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Driving carts too close to greens. It does so much damage and you're only saving a couple extra steps.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?

Good or bad, everyone likes fast greens. We try hard to provide fast greens as often as possible.

#### HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF?

20 or so depending on the time of year. **What type of irrigation system do you have and approximately how many irrigation heads?** Toro, nearly 1600 heads. **What is the cultural management practice you could not do without?** Core aeration.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

Planet Air, hands down. **What piece of equipment would you like to add to your arsenal for golf course management?** Verti-drain. **What is the oldest piece of equipment that is still being utilized in your fleet?** A couple of mid 80's Yamaha carts that we use for cup cutting vehicles. **Who makes you laugh the most on your crew?** Rick Scheidel, he was a good addition here, always has something funny to say.

#### WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

Hopefully a lot of exciting technology that will make course maintenance more efficient and provide great playing conditions.

#### WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

Probably about 75 percent, way more than I'd like it to be.

#### WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW SUPERINTENDENT?

Good or bad, always communicate.

#### WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My kids, they are making me a better person every day.



### 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT COLLIN ROMANICK

1. I WAS ONLY 5' 2" WHEN I GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, I GREW 8 INCHES THE SUMMER AFTER GRADUATION.
2. MY ORIGINAL CAREER OF CHOICE GROWING UP WAS VETERINARIAN.
3. I MET MY WIFE AT A BAR, SHE WAS OUT CELEBRATING HER BIRTHDAY WITH FRIENDS AND FOUND ME IRRESISTIBLE. I MIGHT HAVE MADE THAT LAST PART UP BUT IN THE END SHE DID MARRY ME.
4. I PLAYED SOCCER IN HIGH SCHOOL.
5. ALTHOUGH I WOULD NEVER WANT TO BE WITHOUT MY MECHANIC I AM FAIRLY MECHANICALLY INCLINED.

# OFF COURSE

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE UP TO WHEN THEY ARE OFF THE COURSE



## SMOKIN' JEFF SWEET

Jeff Sweet, CGCS

I started smoking meats about three years ago. I started out with a horizontal wood smoker. My first attempt was a 24 hour smoke of a beef brisket. It turned out great and I was hooked. A true wood smoker takes much attention to keep the proper temperature; you can go from "low and slow" to hot and burned pretty quick. The novelty of constantly watching food cook for 6-24 hours wore off this spring and I purchased an electric "bullet" style smoker. This type of smoker keeps a constant temperature at all times and you can basically set it and forget it. I am starting to hone my skills with ribs and the electric smoker is great for them. I use the 3-2-1 method, 3 hours uncovered, 2 hours tightly wrapped in foil and finish for 1 hour. My wife and I enjoy entertaining guests and serving pulled pork, brisket or ribs fresh off the smoker is always a hit.

## VISITING INTERNSHIP STUDENTS THE BETTER WAY

Dr. Jim Crum, MSU

Riding my motorcycle to make an internship visit is much more fun than fighting the airport game. I don't always have the time to ride for all the visits, but I have ridden to visit several students. Probably one of the most memorable included visits to students completing their internships at The University of Colorado (Boulder, CO), Country Club of the Rockies (Edwards, CO), Vail Golf Club (Vail, CO), The Rock Creek Cattle Company Golf Club (near Deer Lodge, MT), and finally the Missoula Osprey baseball stadium. As I remember, it was a ten day trip that not once did I get the rain suit out of the trunk. The weather and the scenery were absolutely wonderful. If you are curious enough to look at a map you will see that both Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park are very close and were visited. Seeing and experiencing the parks from a motorcycle is very different than from a car. There is no glass between you and the beauty! Below is a photo taken on the Going-to-The-Sun Road within Glacier National Park.

If you also ride please let me know. If I am out-and-about in your area you just might get a call asking you to show me some of the twisty and curvy roads.

Have a regenerative winter and hope the ice stays away this year!



## COLLECTING

Steve Tedhams, CGCS

It seems like all of us have an outlet away from golf to keep our sanity. Most people know I play softball in the summer and bowling in the off season. What isn't widely known is that I collect vintage toys. I have collected vintage toys for over 30 years and have taken over our so called living room to display my collection. I collect whatever I think looks interesting, toys dating back to the 20's and 30's all the way to the 70's. My collection includes all but 2 of the Hess toys trucks given out by the Hess gas stations 1965 to 2015 and the entire collection of Tip up Town Festival collector car from 1992 -2010. There are also toys that I had as a child like my GI Joe and HO Slot cars. Through the years my collection has spilled over to my office at work where I display a collection of toy mowers, tractors and golf related games.





MiGCSA  
GOLD PARTNER



**Utility Vehicles**



**EZGO**<sup>®</sup>

A Textron Company

[www.ezgo.com](http://www.ezgo.com)

**Supplying all your golf  
course needs**

**Spartan**   
Distributors

487 West Division Street  
Sparta, MI 49345

1050 North Opdyke Road  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

**800-822-2216**  
[www.spartandistributors.com](http://www.spartandistributors.com)



Spartan Distributors, was very instrumental in getting Governor Rick Snyder and the State of Michigan to proclaim July as "Smart Irrigation Month."

**Irrigation Solutions**



**Turf Equipment**



**TORO**<sup>®</sup>

**Count on it.**

[www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)





## Think people don't notice the accessories?

On a golf course, every detail is important when it comes to course conditions. That's because "poor course conditions" is the No. 1 reason golfers give for not returning to a golf course. But there's more to course conditions than greens, tees fairways and bunkers. Consider accessories - something golfers see, touch and feel on every hole.

Having appropriate, well maintained golf course accessories is crucial at a time when you have to wow golfers with course conditions. It makes an important lasting impression on golfers and reinforces the course's (and your) reputation. So choose quality accessories from Par Aide to improve course aesthetics and playability. (While saving you time and money.) They work as hard as you do to enhance the image of your golf course. Find out how today.

P A R A I D E . C O M



8 8 8 - 8 9 3 - 2 4 3 2

*Wherever golf is played.*



# From Reservoir to Rotor... Rain Bird has you covered.



Lush fairways and manicured greens can also be highly water-efficient. Every Rain Bird product is a testament to that truth. From water-saving nozzles to highly efficient pumps to leading-edge Control Technology, Rain Bird products make the most of every drop, delivering superior results with less water. Keeping the world and your golf course beautiful. That's The Intelligent Use of Water.™

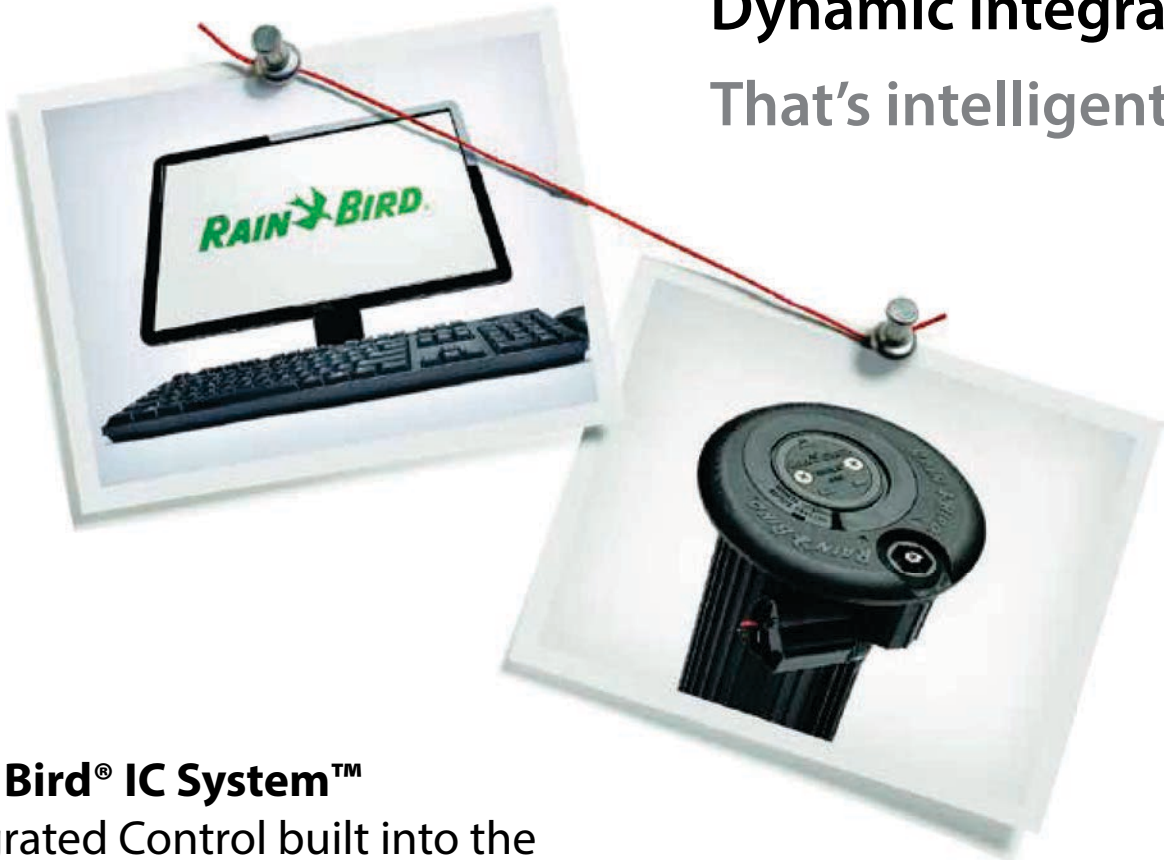
**To learn more, contact your local sales rep today!**

**Chad Kempf**  
**Outside Golf Sales**  
(616) 443-2449  
ckempf@rainbird.com

**Inside Sales  
& Customer Support**  
(888) 907-5535  
rbiservices@rainbird.com

**RAIN  BIRD®**

**Dynamic integration.**  
That's intelligent.



**Rain Bird® IC System™**  
Integrated Control built into the  
rotor or valve for advanced control.

*Spring Lake Country Club  
Matt Gaver, Superintendent  
Installed Rain Bird ICS System 2014*

**To learn more, contact your local sales representative today!**

**Chad Kempf**  
Outside Golf Sales  
(616) 443-2449  
ckempf@rainbird.com



**Inside Sales &  
Customer Support**  
(888) 907-5535  
rbiservices@rainbird.com

Or visit: <https://golfstore.rainbird.com>

**RAIN  BIRD®**





## THE ART OF GOLF DESIGN

I have been asked often, "What could have been the purpose of that bunker? It is nowhere near a place where a golfer would hit the ball." And, my response is usually "aesthetics". In other words – it looks good.

To some people, designing golf courses for the sake of aesthetics sounds like a waste of good bunker sand. The philosophy being, if a golfer cannot hit into a bunker with a relatively high frequency, there is no point to the bunker being constructed. Form follows function. No function – no form – no sand.

To other people, golf design is all about "eye appeal", as described by Geoff Cornish and Bob Graves in their seminal book, *Golf Course Design*. The philosophy being, golfers are on the golf course to enjoy beauty – both natural and man-made – and it is the architect's job to provide the excitement. And, to some, a golf course can never be too sweet to the eye, with some calling artistry in golf design "eye candy", frivolous and over the top.

Many architects, from what I discern via their finished products, seem to balance both concepts. Architects from the "Golden Age" era of the early part of the 20th century, many of whom are labeled "minimalists", display an appreciation for art creation, as much as pragmatism. Contemporary architects are always trying to figure out the right balance between functionality and visual dynamics.

A golf course is a canvas on which both a sport is played, and art is displayed; a facet unique to this endeavor. Hunting and fishing, one may argue, has a similar draw for its magnificence. But, that would be mostly, if not solely, for the appreciation of natural splendor, not man created beauty. There is not a Donald Ross or Alister Mackenzie of hunting or fishing grounds that I know about.

The artistic aspect of golf design is what makes the sport of golf uniquely popular. I know specifically of some golf course aficionados who do not even play golf, but simply enjoy the artistry of the golf course.

Even if an architect believes their sole purpose is to create a playing field for the sport, their work may take on a beauty they never intended. Many people are drawn to simple and/or minimal forms. The same way many people appreciate the simple, "less-is-more" beauty of modern building architects from the middle decades of the 20th century, many golfers appreciate the unadorned forms and shapes of a golf course built without many vibrant features.

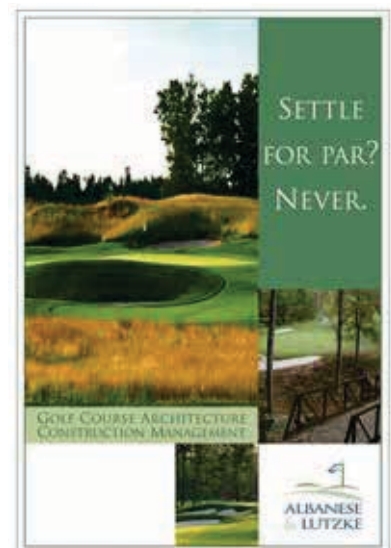
Often, an aesthetic goal for a golf course design is how to best compliment the inherent beauty of a site. How many bunkers are too many bunkers when the backdrop is an ocean or mountain? This comes down to artistry. The golf designer's artistic ability (unless an owner decides to intervene.) is what make the final artistic arrangement. The golf designer creates the composition, adds or deletes elements from the canvass, and directs the ultimate brush strokes that create the final landscape painting that golfers view as they contemplate how to make a golf stroke toward this scene.

What makes a beautiful golf hole? The answer is the same as "what makes a beautiful work of art?" It is all a matter of personal taste. After all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I often ask this question to our associates. What "looks good" and what does not to them? And, most importantly, "why" they like something, and "why" they do not. And, I always find these interactions enlightening. When we first analyze a form or a shape, we inevitably start with what our gut reaction is: either a "like" or "dislike". And, from there, we determine the elements that make up this assessment. And, although there are some universal principles that make some forms more "natural" looking than others, there are also a host of different detail techniques and strategies that make some forms eye appealing and some forms not so much -- at least to me.

Golf courses are wonderful canvases on which art can be explored. And, like other art forms, the art of golf design will continue to evolve as tastes and styles change.

**Paul Albanese,**  
ASGCA is a principal  
with Albanese &  
Lutzke, Golf Course  
Architects/Construction  
Managers. They have  
an office in Plymouth,  
Michigan and are  
currently working  
in seven countries  
on small and large  
projects. Feel free to  
email Paul at [paul@  
golf-designs.com](mailto:paul@golf-designs.com) or  
visit their website at  
[www.golf-designs.com](http://www.golf-designs.com)



## UNDER THE HOOD



# HEATH BRONKEMA

*Heath Bronkema started his way into the golf business during practice for his band “The Bronk Brothers” with a conversation with his drummer, John Fulling, CGCS. He told him he was thinking about taking a job working on motorcycles and small engines. John had no idea Heath had experience doing that kind of work. John did tell him it is tough to get into the golf business because most mechanics never leave. Two days later his Mechanic Skip Heinz put in his notice and he called Heath. He has been married 19 years to his wife Nicole and they have two kids. His son Chase, 13 and daughter Tyler, 10 they have a 4 year old Boxer named Moog.*

## 1. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I started racing motocross when I was 7 years old and that's when it began. I learned a lot about two-cycle engines tearing them down and putting them back together and the importance of keeping the air and oil filters clean. When I was a junior and a senior in high school I was able to take welding classes and I also did co-op through school, which allowed me to have a job during that time. I worked at M&M Motor Mall, which was the largest motorcycle shop in Southwest Michigan and where I learned the most from some of the veteran mechanics.

## 2. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

I really appreciate the fact that the MiGCSA brings the equipment techs opportunities for education and does such a great job with statewide communications. I've been able to meet many fellow equipment managers from around the state and share ideas. I also like the fact that we have sessions set up at different locations so that we can see and learn from a variety of club operations. I would hope this remains a priority for the association going forward.

## 3. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

A number of years ago we held a couple equipment manager sessions at Kalamazoo Country Club. Since then I have been involved each year with helping to organize some of the equipment manager education events and have been a speaker at the Michigan Turf Conference's equipment manager session at the Hancock Center the past few years.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

Reduced budgets in a down economy have left many clubs with an equipment fleet well beyond its useful life, which puts a great deal of stress on the equipment manager and frankly the golf course superintendent and facility as a whole. I also believe that environmental issues are on the forefront and equipment managers need to be prepared to do their part in the shop operation. Technology is advancing in the golf course equipment world as fast as it is everywhere else and it can be a challenge to stay on top of it.

## 5. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

Skip Heinz was a huge help as I entered the golf side of the business. The rest would be my dad, Butch Ponicki, Terry Drake, Loren See, Jeff See and Doug Anderson.



**6. WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF EQUIPMENT MANAGERS?**

I see a more technologically savvy equipment manager who is tuned into both the equipment maintenance world and the communications and business world. There is no longer any reason for going it alone. That's a big reason why I appreciate my membership in both the MiGCSA and the GCSAA so much. They keep me connected to other equipment managers, the latest technologies, suppliers and manufacturers, etc. Equipment managers have the opportunity today to continue their education and become even more valuable to the facility and the profession than ever before.

**7. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?**

I see myself enjoying life with my family, still wrenching on equipment and playing music. It's a pretty good life.

**8. WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?**

It is all about the quality of cut more than anything!! We can never forget that we are all here to produce a product for our members or customers. It's about providing the best possible product we can for the game and the people who play the game.

**9. HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?**

I think it is one of the most important! It's not easy to make a golf course look and play great with broken equipment. We manage the largest physical asset on the property, outside of buildings and property themselves. We have a great deal of responsibility that we all take very seriously. It's critical that we remain at the top of our game so that the facility and the rest of the team can stay at the top of theirs.

**10. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT?**

It seems that it gets harder and harder to find parts for some of the old equipment we have and how much the manufacturers change part numbers!

**11. WHAT TYPE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION DO YOU FEEL IS VALUABLE TO EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS?**

I think "tricks of the trade" from the more experienced equipment managers is priceless. A simple idea can save tons of time and money. I also believe equipment managers need to keep current with technology and communications. Equipment management maintenance programs are fantastic tools today and we need to be ready and able to use them to their fullest capabilities.

**12. WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST STORY FROM ALL OF YOUR YEARS MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT?**

One of my asst. tech's always checked the oil on equipment wiping the dipstick on his shirt instead of using a rag. Never did understand that.

**13. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW?**

I would like to be remembered as a great friend, husband, dad, son, brother, guitar player and singer



**5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT HEATH BRONKEMA**

1. I RACED MOTORCROSS/HARESCRAMBLES AND WAS STATE OVERALL STATE CHAMPION SEVERAL YEARS RUNNING AND TURN PROFESSIONAL AND RACED ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES.
2. I PLAY GUITAR AND SING IN THE BRONK BROS BAND THAT MY BROTHER AND I STARTED 17 YEARS AGO. WE HAVE OPENED UP FOR OVER 80 NATIONAL ACTS THAT INCLUDE KENNY CHESNEY, CHARLIE DANIELS, ERIC CHURCH AND MANY MORE.
3. I LOVE TO BUILD OLD CARS AND TRUCKS. RIGHT NOW I HAVE A 1969 FORD MUSTANG FASTBACK THAT I HAVE RESTORED AND A 1978 FORD BRONCO THAT I AM IN THE PROCESS OF RESTORING FOR SOME CRUISING FUN AND TO PLAY IN THE MICHIGAN DUNES.
4. I WRITE SONGS AND TRAVEL TO NASHVILLE TN. AS MUCH AS I CAN TO WRITE WITH CO-WRITING FRIENDS THERE.
5. I COACH BOTH OF MY KIDS IN TRAVEL SOCCER WHICH TAKES US ALL OVER THE STATE.

# 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS OPEN

Thank you for being a member of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association in 2014 it has been a great year for your Chapter. Renewal is now open for 2015.

You can renew in many ways, the fastest and easiest is to log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) and click on the "Renew your MiGCSA Membership Here" link. If you would rather print and mail in your membership renewal you can click on the Join MiGCSA link for the renewal form. This form can be mailed to MiGCSA 7113 Demerly Rd. Benzonia, MI 49616 or faxed to 1-888-364-4272. You may also scan and email the form to [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org).

Your membership dues and continued support within the MiGCSA has helped make all of the items below possible, so thank you for your support of the largest single state chapter in the country.

In 2014 the MiGCSA has:

- Hosted over 1,000 members at our Meetings, Golf Events & Fundraisers.
- Increased the membership from 702 in the fall of 2013 to 727 members today.
- Produced four issues of the industry leading Course Conditions Magazine
- Produced a 2013/14 Membership Directory
- Partnered with the Michigan Golf Alliance (MGCOA, PGA, GAM, MTF, and CMAA) to host the Michigan Golf Day in Lansing
- Raised over \$100,000 in Industry Partner Support
- Year to date over 100,000 visitors to [migcsa.org](http://migcsa.org)
- The Board is looking over long term investment options to provide more to our members
- The 2014 Fundraisers supported Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Research, The Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, The Wee One Foundation, The Environmental Institute for Golf, MiGCSA Member Scholarships & MSU Student Scholarships.



## Membership Renewal Cycle

**October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Membership Renewal  
for all 2014 Members**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>  
All 2014 Memberships  
Expire**



October   November   December   January   February   March   April   May   June   July   August   September



# THANK YOU

TO MiGCSA'S 2014 INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SUPPORT THE COMPANIES  
THAT SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION





# ROB PYLAR

Bayer CropScience

*Rob Pylar is the Area Sales Manager for MiGCSA Platinum Partner Bayer CropScience. He has an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts from Macomb Community College and a Turf Degree from Michigan State University, Class of 1994. He enjoys the variety his job brings, he spends an average of 110 days on the road and logs more than 45,000 miles a year. Rob covers all of Michigan along with Northern Ohio – Toledo, Cleveland, Akron/Canton, Youngstown.*

## HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I worked for a small lawn-care company for 3 years and had friends that worked at the St. Clair Shores Country Club, where I grew up. I was considering going into Horticulture/Landscape Design and one of my friends told me I needed to think about a turf degree. He said his boss (Craig Roggeman) was a Michigan State grad and since I knew equipment, construction, mowing and fertilizing I'd be a good fit on the golf course (and the golf was free!). I met with Craig and he gave me a crack at it – absolutely loved it! Thank you, Craig! When Craig left to go to Sycamore Hills, Tim Dornier took over and didn't fire me. Thank you, Tim!

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE PROFESSION YOU ARE IN?

I chose the green industry in general because I'm passionate about the outdoors and green spaces. I chose golf course management because I could incorporate these things into something that others could enjoy. I moved into sales/business management because it allowed me to stay within the industry and assist others in enjoying and accomplishing those same things.

## WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE?

My parents, who somehow seemed to always find the balance between support and tough love (and at times it needed to be tough!). I worked at a local party store all through high school for an Iraqi family that fled a civil war. Hearing their stories of what they fled and what they achieved in America has always provided me with perspective, a world view and an appreciation for toughing things out.

## PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE OFTEN WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY.

The 10 funniest stories of my career all occurred during a night at the Adobe Gillis bar in Orlando, FL during the 2002 GIS and I can't tell a single one until the statute of limitations expires. But those who were there know their role in that tire-fire of a night.

The next 10 funniest stories came while rooming with John Sorochan at Michigan State but I don't remember any of those. How about this one:

When I was an assistant superintendent at Wabeek, Dr. Rogers and Dr. Crum came to visit and play golf. We played skins and Trey was in the 70's, Crum was in the 80's and I was mid-90's. I somehow won the carry-overs and key holes and while Dr. Crum and I broke even, Dr. Rogers owed me \$30 despite hosing me by 20 strokes. I still remember him handing over the duckets – "Pylar (pause for effect), something about this transaction seems very, very wrong to me."

## WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Superintendents need to be so good at so many different things – agronomy, equipment, irrigation, purchasing, managing, training, upwards-and-downwards communication and, well – you get the idea. I've never known a more well-rounded group of people and I'm amazed at the things they have to work on, things they just don't always teach in school.

## HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS?

I believe we'll see two types of golf courses/clubs. The first will be very traditional and similar to what we see now. The other type will be very different, offering less than 9 holes, for example to fit the modern schedules of most. We'll see speakers in carts for music and courses will be connected for social media use. The courses will be a bit louder than we're accustomed to but I believe we have a segment of people that want that. There will always be a place for traditional golf and rightly so, but some operations will seek different demographics in the future.

## WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE VERY BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY?

Signature Fungicide. It's the product that has really helped superintendents successfully manage the area where they are judged most critically – their putting greens.



## INDUSTRY PROFILE

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ITEM TO SELL/DEMO?**

Right now I'm enjoying promoting Mirage Fungicide. Tebuconazole is an excellent active ingredient and the addition of StressGard Technology improves it even further. It solves real agronomic challenges and fits all budgets.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY?**

Ken DeBusscher. Because nobody has more fun or is more entertaining on a golf course.

**WHO HAS THE BEST MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DOG? WHAT IS ITS NAME?**

Jim at Harbor Shores is awesome. Also a big fan of Willy at Pine Lake.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY/ CONFERENCE THAT TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND?**

The MTF Conference in East Lansing. Hands down.

---

## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT ROB PYLAR

1. I ATTENDED GAME 5 OF THE 1984 WORLD SERIES AT TIGER STADIUM AND RAN ONTO THE FIELD AFTER THE TIGERS CLINCHED. MY COUSIN AND I RIPPED UP A PIECE OF SOD, ABOUT 2'X2', TOOK IT HOME AND PLANTED IT NEXT TO MY GRANDFATHER'S HEADSTONE AT THE CEMETERY. THERE WEREN'T ANY RULES IN THOSE DAYS.
2. I ORIGINALLY WENT TO COLLEGE AND STUDIED TO BE A CSI (CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATOR). THIS WAS BEFORE THE TV SHOW AND BEFORE ANYBODY EVEN KNEW WHAT THAT WAS. I STILL FIND THE SCIENCE AND CHEMISTRY FASCINATING BUT AT THE TIME I JUST WANTED TO BE OUTSIDE AND NOT IN A LAB. I DID LEARN TO ANALYZE FINGERPRINTS AND CALCULATE BALLISTICS BY HAND AND NOT COMPUTER.
3. I ONCE BELONGED TO A TOASTMASTERS GROUP THAT HELD BI-WEEKLY PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITIONS AND WON 9 OUT OF 10 CONTESTS ENTERED. THAT SAID, I'M STILL NERVOUS EVERY TIME I HAVE TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC.
4. RESISTANCE TO CHEMISTRY IS REAL AND I'M AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESISTANT TO COFFEE. I CAN DRINK A CUP AT 10PM AND BE SOUND ASLEEP AT 10:30PM.
5. THE ST. CLAIR SHORES COUNTRY CLUB IS A BREEDING GROUND FOR THE TURF PROGRAM AT MICHIGAN STATE. RON ROSS, DAVE FAUCHER, JEFF SCHWARTZENBERG, RICK RORAFF, ME, JONAS CONLAN, JEFF FISSETTE AND SAL LULOLLI ALL WORKED THERE PRIOR TO GETTING INTO THE PROGRAM. KEN DEBUSSCHER ALSO WORKED THERE BUT ONLY COUNTS FOR HALF SINCE HE WENT TO PURDUE. OUR BAYER TECH REP, DR. ROB GOLEMBIEWSKI ALSO GREW UP IN ST. CLAIR SHORES BUT DIDN'T WORK AT THE CLUB. HE AND I DID GO TO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TOGETHER THOUGH.



## FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

## GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

*Where has the year gone? It seems like we were just recovering from a rough winter and here we are on the doorstep of winter once again! As always there is a lot going on at GCSAA but for this edition I wanted to focus on two big events. The first is the Chapter Delegates Meeting and the second is the GCSAA Conference and Show and Golf Championship. In October the Chapter Delegates gathered at GCSAA headquarters to discuss important issues that are facing GCSAA and its affiliated chapters as well as the golf industry in general. In those discussions, 87 delegates representing 91 chapters*

*listened and shared opinions and information on topics affecting golf course superintendents and the industry. On the first day the delegates were welcomed by GCSAA Past President Pat Finlen, CGCS and Mr. Finlen discussed the future of the profession and GCSAA. That was followed by GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans briefing the delegates on operational issues, key initiatives and a financial report. Vice President John O'Keefe, CGCS and GCSAA COO Matt Shatto gave a brief overview of Rounds 4 Research and presented checks to the top four earning chapters in the program. The Carolinas chapter received \$30,933, the Metropolitan \$10,166, Georgia \$7,469 and the Heart of America \$5,214. On day two there were discussions on GCSAA Board size and if the number of board members should be reduced, member standards and should they be modified, adding equipment managers as a classification to GCSAA membership, member's dues increase (this is year 2 in the cycle and the CPI that is used would increase dues \$10 for A and SM and \$5 for C), there was a town hall session where delegates could ask questions to the board of directors, a programmatic session that included information on the golf industry show, EIFG, and advocacy. At the end of the afternoon the delegates met the candidates for directors and officer positions and followed up with break out rooms with the same candidates. It was a very informative day and a half for both the delegates and the GCSAA Board as well as the GCSAA staff. Thank you to all of the delegates for their time and input.*

*In mid-September the GCSAA Field Staff team met in San Antonio, Texas, the site of the upcoming GCSAA Conference and Show as well as the national golf championship. We were there for two reasons, one was to do a strategic planning session for the field staff program and set our direction for next year, the other was to preview the city and the area around the convention center so that we could share that information with our members. San Antonio is a great city and very easy to navigate. We all stayed at different conference hotels so that we could preview those as well and the longest walk to the convention center is ten minutes. While walking you have two options, up along the street on along the river walk. The River Walk is loaded with shops and restaurants. It is very clean and there are unlimited options for food. The convention center is well laid out, very user friendly and spacious. The education rooms are conveniently located on the second floor and some of the walkways overlook the show floor area so you will be able to see the show taking shape as our industry partners set up their displays. There will be 84 seminars offered along with a variety of other education, there is sure to be many ideas that you will be able to take back to your course and implement in order to make your operation more efficient, save the club money or just enhance the enjoyment of playing a round of golf for your members and players. The GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show will be February 21-26, 2015 and registration is now open. Please go to the website to sign up now so that you do not get closed out of the education seminars you want to take. While we did not tour the golf courses for the championship and golf events, they are located not too far from the convention center. The host hotel for the tournament will be the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa. The tournament will be Saturday through Monday February 21-23 and will feature five great golf courses that will challenge all levels of players. Registration is open so please sign up today as you will not want to miss this opportunity to enjoy great golf and endless networking opportunities with friends old and new! I look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio in February!*

Best Wishes,

John





**GREAT LAKES TURF**  
LLC



**Science Based ... Performance Driven**

### Michigan Representatives

John Cooney 248.762.9271  
Dave Creager 586.944.7784  
Jim Johnson 616.292.0260  
Jeff Knoblock 231.288.2753  
Marty Miller 248.739.2796  
Mike Plague 586.915.9281  
Steve Shane 231.883.8334

*Exclusive Distributor of:*



Phone: 616.805.4718 • Email: [info@greatlaketurf.com](mailto:info@greatlaketurf.com) • Website: [www.greatlaketurf.com](http://www.greatlaketurf.com) • Twitter: [@greatlaketurf](https://twitter.com/greatlaketurf)

# 2014 WEE ONE OUTING



Some fortuitous scheduling saw the 2014 Michigan Fundraiser for the Wee One Foundation take place on September 22nd at Orchard Lake Country Club. This event, which is typically held in May, was moved to the fall this year in order to treat attendees to a first-hand look at the restoration of the 1926 Colt-Alison classic golf course. The scheduling change couldn't have been more fitting, given the cold weather and widespread winter damage that gripped many courses in metro Detroit this past spring.

Nearly 100 golfers and industry supporters turned out for the event that raised just under \$20,000 for the Wee One Foundation, an organization that helps turf industry professionals who have experienced financial challenges because of medical hardship.

The event attracted some big names in turf industry media. Turf Republic founder and CEO Bill Brown was on hand to provide coverage of the event. Many thanks go to Pat Jones, Publisher and Editorial Director of Golf Course Industry magazine. In addition to playing in the event, Jones made a \$5,000 contribution to the Wee One Foundation that was raised in part from a survey conducted by his publication.

The golf event was a Two Best Ball net team event. Winners were:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place** – Matt Coulter, Bryan Grill, Scott Sabgash and Scott Trbovich.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – Jimmy Mehlberg, Dave Moritz, Joe Tignaneli and Jayson Tyson.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** – Travis Fox, Charlie Gaige, Kris Kalil and Fritz McMullen.

Closest-to-the Pin prizes were won by:

- Hole #3 – Brad Paddison (Sand Sales Company, LLC)
- Hole #7 – Phil Owen (Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club)
- Hole #13 – Bridget O'Brien (Landscape Supply, Inc.)
- Hole #16 – Terry Poley (Pine Lake Country Club)

A number of volunteers should be credited for their contribution to the event. Scott Rettmann (Walnut Creek Country Club) and Jeff

Fisette (St. Clair Golf Club) devoted much time to the thankless job of soliciting sponsorships for the event. Andy Gianino (Oakland Hills Country Club) handled all of the behind-the-scenes details for the event and assembled an ace team of volunteers consisting of Nancy Baziuk, Laurie Mitchell, Ed Mitchell, Mychal Brown and Daniela Moritz who manned the check-in table and kept things running smoothly.

The biggest "Thank You" is reserved for event sponsors, whose generosity and support make the event a success.

## 2014 WEE ONE OUTING SPONSORS

### Platinum Sponsors

BASF	Midwest Golf & Turf / Club Car
Bayer Environmental Science	MiGCSA
Great Lakes Turf, LLC	Residex, LLC
Harrell's	Spartan Distributors
Jacobsen	Syngenta
Landscape Supply Inc.	

### Silver Sponsor

Tri-Turf

### Bronze Sponsors

Rain Bird Corporation	Mike Kuhn and Associates
Davey Golf Management	Hills & Forrest Golf Course Architects
Soil O <sub>2</sub> Solutions	

### Event Donors

Pro Pump and Controls, Inc. – Beverages  
Whitfield Design – Graphic Design & Publicity

The Michigan Wee One Foundation Fundraiser will return to the Spring in 2015 with a May 18th date at the Kingsley Club, ranked by Golfweek as the 24th best Modern Course Layout. Kingsley Club is located approximately 15 miles south of Traverse City in northern Michigan.

For more information about the Wee One Foundation or to become a member, please visit [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org).





Now you can outsmart dollar spot.

**Xzemplar**<sup>™</sup>  
fungicide

Dollar spot is relentless. But when you're prepared, you can cross that worry right off your list. New **Xzemplar**<sup>™</sup> fungicide with the active ingredient fluxapyroxad gives you consistent, longer-lasting protection against this tough disease. It's fast-acting, with preventative and curative properties that keep dollar spot at bay. Trust **Xzemplar fungicide** to put you in control of the game.

For more information please visit [betterturf.basf.us](http://betterturf.basf.us)

 **BASF**  
The Chemical Company



## THE BETTER HALF



# ANDREW HARRELL

*Andrew Harrell has been the Assistant at the Country Club of Detroit for 5 years. As a kid his dad and his friends would let him tag along and drive the cart when they played. He remembers thinking it was the greatest thing ever. At some point he realized they have to pay someone to take care of the course and he couldn't think of a better thing to do. He is a graduate of Arizona State University and in his spare time he cruises on his motorcycle to the lake house where he can sit on the boat and relax or read a good book and go art museums.*

## WHERE WAS THE FIRST COURSE YOU WORKED ON?

Tecumseh Country Club. **What was your first job on that course?** Raking bunkers, Weed whipping, and greens mowing. **When did you know that this was a job you wanted to do as a career?** I have wanted to do this job since I was a kid, right around 12yrs old. **What was your favorite job that first summer on a course?** Mowing greens, there was nothing more satisfying to me then getting those perfect stripes.

## WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

TPC Scottsdale. **Who was the first Superintendent at that course?** Jeff Plotts. **What did you learn from that Superintendent in the first year?** That all though the job is demanding and takes up a lot of our time, it is only a job, don't forget to live life.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE THAT YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Old Beau. Located in in the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina.

## WHAT GOLF COURSE WOULD YOU LOVE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME?

Valderrama Golf Club in Southern Spain.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

Hands down the moisture meter.

## IF ONLY ONE PLANT PROTECTANT WERE AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE IN YOUR TANK?

If it could be only one product it would be thiophantate methyl. It would nuke anything that would pop-up.

## WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW AND WHY?

Enrique Cerda. He doesn't speak a word of English (and sometimes I wonder if it's actually Spanish) but that doesn't stop him from carrying on a conversation with anyone who will listen.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

Lately it has been Green dot Stables in cork town. It is a slider restaurant/bar. It is absolutely delicious.

## WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT?

Verticutting. These new types of bent grass reminds me of working with bermuda in Southwest.

## WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My grandfather influenced me the most in my personal life. I often question to myself how he would handle a situation and do my best to emulate.



**NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"**

Ernest Hemingway, Bill Murray and Adrianna Lima

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?**

I couldn't imagine anything better than being outside on a golf course all day.

**HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?**

This past year a group of us did some volunteer work at Belle Isle cleaning up a few of the softball diamonds. With our specialized skills we can have a great impact on local and statewide parks.

**WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?**

Longer wait times to get the head job. In the long run I think it will be helpful. There are going to be some really talented Superintendents when we get our first head job.

**WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?**

Staffing and water. It seems each season it gets increasingly difficult to find and keep crew members. Water and water costs will always be an issue.

**WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?**

Sounds like the biggest problem heading our direction is going to be the bluegrass weevil. They sound like nasty little things.

**WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?**

Mostly on how to manage and motivate people. Not everyone is the same different people are motivated by different things.

**HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?**

I would like to think that assistants play an important role in the industry. We are the ones on the front line everyday.

**WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?**

People knocking bunker sand of their shoes on the green. How hard is it, really, to do it when you get out of the bunker.

**WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET?**

GA60 aerifier. It gets used once a year and starts right up every time. I bet its 30yrs old.

**WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE AND APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY IRRIGATION HEADS?**

Rainbird irrigation.

**WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT, WHO ELSE INFLUENCED YOU PERSONALLY?**

There is no one person that has influenced me more then another in this business. I learn from every boss and crew member that I have worked with/for.



**5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT ANDREW HARRELL**

1. I HAVE BEEN TO OVER 25 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
2. I REALLY ENJOY ART - PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY, SCULPTURES.
3. I ALWAYS HAVE AT LEAST ONE (USUALLY TWO OR THREE) BOOK THAT I AM READING.
4. I HAVE TAKEN COOKING CLASSES.
5. I ENJOY ASTRONOMY.





# Changing the course of agronomic technology.

*Save more green with our Early Order Programs.*

Lock in current pricing • Receive extended terms • Ask about warehousing

*Save on trusted products you need most from:*

- BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, Dow and FMC
- PLUS Harrell's premium branded products: Harrell's MAX<sup>®</sup>, Bio-MAX<sup>®</sup>, HydroMAX<sup>™</sup>, SprayMAX<sup>®</sup> and PROfertilizer<sup>™</sup> blends with Polyon<sup>®</sup>

## Call your sales representative today.

To locate the sales representative in your area,  
please visit [www.harrells.com](http://www.harrells.com)



**Andy Gilroy**  
SE MI  
586-917-3851



**Marc McCoy**  
Western/Mid MI  
616-902-6196



**Kimberly Rouleau**  
Northern MI  
989-370-5250



**Mike Rupp**  
SE MI/NW OH  
419-764-3422



**Tony Staley**  
SW MI/ NW IN  
574-340-1105



**Doug Johannsmeier**  
Oakland County/SE MI  
248-302-2054



## OPERATION: EDUCATION TECHNICIAN

On September 29th Equipment Technicians from all over the state were invited to attend a unique education opportunity at Walnut Creek Country Club. This event was planned and hosted by Equipment Technician Hector Velazquez with support from Superintendent Scott Rettmann, Assistant Superintendents Alan Bidwell, John Jones, and Kevin Kretz.

The day started off with Robert Baldwin the Owner of Ore Creek Metal Workz in Brighton, MI. Robert had a full hands on welding in action presentation. He covered proper techniques on how to prepare metal before welding and the effects of proper gas, angle, and heat.

The second presenter was Joe Anna a Sales Representative for Lawson Products. Joe spoke about drill bits, welding rods and much more. The day wrapped up by giving away great door prizes donated by J.W. Turf, and Lawson Products. Thanks to J.W. Turf for donating the lunch for the day as well.



We know you work hard.  
Let us work harder.

Lean on us for some of your business demands - we know we can work harder for you. This is why we've implemented the Partners Program and Business Solutions, and the Px3 Maintenance Package.

Px3 helps you with the planning process by providing customized bids for each project. We can accurately estimate the square footage of any property.

Customers who join our Partners Program earn points on every John Deere Landscapes purchase and redeem those points at an online store, for various industry events, or for cash on account. Program members are also eligible for our Business Solutions, which can help reduce your day-to-day business expenses.

Please contact your local branch to learn more about these opportunities. We are eager to help you with as many of your business challenges as possible!



800-347-4272  
www.JohnDeereLandscapes.com

# A CALL FROM CAMPUS

## 2015 MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

The 2015 Michigan Turfgrass Conference is quickly approaching, Jan. 19-21, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of MSU. This will be our third year back on campus and we're looking forward to building on the momentum from the previous conference. We're changing up the conference format this year to provide even more educational programming. In lieu of workshops all day on Monday and Tuesday morning, the conference will begin with three days of general sessions on Monday morning at 9 am and finishing up with the Turfgrass Talk Show on Wednesday afternoon. This format change provides more slots for speakers both from out of state and locally.

Monday morning will begin with a lively session/debate on the classic battle between Poa and bent with Dr. Vargas, Dr. Branham from the University of Illinois, and Dr. Rob Golembiewski from Bayer presenting followed by a panel discussion. Make sure to get your rest on Monday night as Tuesday morning will begin with an early bird 'Breakfast with the USGA' featuring USGA agronomists Keith Happ and Bob Vavrek. Happ and Vavrek will summarize and debate observations and recommendations with the audience from the 2013 season. Tuesday afternoon is the Innovative Superintendents session with quick hitting 25 minute talks from superintendents around the state sharing their secrets to success. Speakers include Mike Mausolf, Adam Garr, Scott Rettman, Jason Zaleski, Dan Mausolf, and Scott Pulaski. Immediately following the Innovative Superintendents session the Vendor Half-Time Show will begin at the Kellogg Center. We've moved the vendor show from the stadium to the Kellogg Center so that once the Superintendents session concludes you can walk down the hall to the vendor show. The change in location also allows us to offer a greatly expanded menu of hors d'oeuvres to satisfy your hunger while networking with our industry partners. Wednesday will conclude with a full day of general sessions capped with the afternoon Turfgrass Talk Show hosted by Dr. Thom Nikolai. The topic this year is 'Turfgrass Health'.

Once again this year there will be educational programming for equipment technicians on Monday and Tuesday. On Monday the program will be held at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center to facilitate equipment demonstrations. On Tuesday the equipment technicians will be on-site at the Kellogg Center. Representatives from all the major manufacturers will be presenting including Toro, John Deere, Textron Jacobsen, and The Bernhard Co.

Although not a part of our official conference program all the Spartan fans may be interested in knowing that the men's basketball team will play Penn State on Wednesday night so if you're thinking of attending the game make plans early. Conference registration is now open at [www.mtfconference.org](http://www.mtfconference.org). I look forward to seeing all of you in East Lansing, Jan. 19-21, 2015.





# When you have a turf problem, there's only one SOLUTION.



## DIRECT SOLUTIONS. Your partner in the fight for stronger, healthier turf.

Managing your turf is a monstrous job, with weeds, insects or worse threatening your greenscape. You need a partner to protect your turf – you need Direct Solutions. With industry best herbicides like DEFENDOR®, insecticides like ACELEPRYN® and revitalizing nutritionals like PROSPECT® and RADIATE®. Direct Solutions will help you defeat the monsters of your fairway.

### Prospect:



Prospect is a plant nutrient solution developed by Loveland Products to enhance plant growth vigor and create a more fibrous, extensive root system in young or mature turf, ornamentals, and trees.

### Radiate:



Radiate contains two plant growth regulators and is developed by Loveland Products. A formulation of IBA and Kinetin, its designed to provide essential plant hormones in the correct ratios to drive maximum root growth.

**Get results today--contact your local rep to learn more:**

**Dave Polen**  
(586)839-8930

Dave.Polen@cpsagu.com

**Tim Suter**  
(419)356-5141

Tim.Suter@cpsagu.com

**Dave Gedeon**  
(440)225-6023

Dave.Gedeon@cpsagu.com



Contact your local rep or visit us at: [www.aatdirectsolutions.com](http://www.aatdirectsolutions.com)

# KEEP ONE EYE ON YOUR NUTRIENTS AT ALL TIMES.

The NutriTech Tool identifies key nutrient deficiencies, allowing you to make precise in-season adjustments quickly.

## 1. STANDARD SOIL TESTING



## 2. RESIN TECHNOLOGY



## 3. PLANT TISSUE TEST



Learn more. Contact your local WinField representative or visit [www.winfieldprofessionalproducts.com](http://www.winfieldprofessionalproducts.com)

Steve Fent 989-413-2536  
John Driver 616-430-3737

# WINFIELD™

WinField is a trademark of Winfield Solutions, LLC.  
© 2014 Winfield Solutions, LLC.



## WINTER PREPARATION MEETING

On October 23rd more than sixty members attended the winter preparation meeting at Franklin Hills Country Club. This meeting is a continuation of the MiGCSA's effort to provide the most accurate and up to date information for our members on the serious issue of winter damage across the state.

The meeting started with an up note from Dr. Jeff Andresen, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist Department of Geography. Agricultural meteorology and applied climatology, State climatologist for the State of Michigan, Director, ENVIRO-Weather program. Dr. Andresen's predictions are for a drier and milder winter than 2013/14. The odds are not good for anything close to a repeat of the polar vortex of last year, good news for our members who are still recovering from winter damage on putting greens.

Dr. Kevin Frank presented the results from the ice damage survey this spring. The results were varied and no direct correlation to preparations and damage were found from the survey. There is some strength in numbers to show the widespread damage across the state. Dr. Emily Merewitz finished the presentations with her plans for the new cold weather growth chamber purchased with MTF funding this year for close to \$100,000. The hope is for this equipment to provide some more real world best management practices to try to prevent turf death from ice coverage. It may seem like an impossible task but some of the best turf minds in the country are working hard right in our own back yard.

The evening ended with a panel of Dr. Andresen, Dr. Frank, Dr. Merewitz, Dr. Joe Vargas & Dr. Trey Rogers and a Q&A discussion with the attendees. Some great questions and interaction finished off a great evening. Special thanks to Brian Schwehofer, Franklin Hills Superintendent and Michigan Turfgrass Foundation President for his effort in hosting this event.





## THE WESTERN GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

Western Golf Day is the second of the three fundraisers the MiGCSA has every year. The first is the Northern event at Arcadia Bluffs and the last is The Big Event. Battle Creek Country Club General Manager Steve Rebhan, CGCS was our host for the day along with MiGCSA Member Tom Ham Assistant Superintendent. The classic Willie Park Jr. design was in perfect condition for the players.

There are many sponsors to thank starting with Chad Kempf with Rain Bird helped run a poker game contest on hole #8. Our hole sponsors were JW Turf on #1, VB Controls is on #7, Residex on #9 and Spartan Distributors at the half way house.

Here were the winners from the day:

Proximity Prizes were sponsored by the 2014 Premiere Foundation Sponsors BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, Jacobsen, FIP Irrigation, Tri-Turf and LaFontaine Automotive.

Closest to the pins winners were: Sahwn Pranger, Kevin Frank, Robin Buntin & A.J. Rings

Long drive winner: Dean Mehlburg, Steven Scott & Bill O'Connell

The winning scramble teams were A.J. Rings, Keith Paterson, Ryan Osborn & Tom Dejong with a third place 61. Second place went to Paul Richter, Steve Schultz, Sean Pranger & Jack Seaver with a 60. The 2014 winning team of Sean Kilger, Cody Korenstia, Kevin Thielke & Andrew Dykstra won on the scorecard playoff and a final score of 11 under 61.

The MiGCSA and MTF thank you for attending this event. 100% of the proceeds raised at this event will help fund scholarships, donations, and philanthropic interests like the Wee One Foundation, EIFG and the MSU Turf Club. But the vast majority will go directly to funding turf research at Michigan State University in donations to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Our next fundraiser will be January 9th at the Detroit Curling Club.



The winning team of Sean Kilger, Cody Korenstia, Kevin Thielke & Andrew Dykstra.

Mark Chappell, Host  
Steve Rebhan,  
Kris Loudon &  
Thomas Ham,  
Assistant



### THANK YOU 2014 PREMIERE FOUNDATION SPONSORS

**BASF**  
The Chemical Company



Bayer Environmental Science



**syngenta**

**TRI-TURF**

**JACOBSEN**



## ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

### Why are you a Member?

With the MiGCSA Membership Renewal open as of October 15th I have been thinking a lot about why members renew every year. Have you ever asked yourself this

question? It is a question you should ask yourself, why do you pay your dues every year to maintain your membership with the MiGCSA?

I know there are many people who have their own reasons that they have shared with me. Some are members because they always have been and always will be because they have ties with the start for the statewide chapter, it was part of their lives for so long it became part of them, I would fall into this category even if I was not in my current position.

There are others who are members because they know our community is important and that without the support of members the association would not be possible. Some are members to gain access to customers. Some are members because they are part of an allied group that is in the golf industry. Some are members just because they like reading this magazine. I am sure there are many reasons out there that I did not cover here, whatever your reason I am glad you have one.

There are also members who are not sure why they pay their dues every year, there are people who think it is pretty expensive for 4 magazines and a membership directory. For these members I agree with you, it is expensive for some magazines and a directory. However there is much more to it than that.

This is the tough spot for any association or community group is to explain all that they do without droning on about initiatives, regulations and successes. I really want to lay out hundreds of bullet points explaining in detail all of the things the chapter

has done and what we offer to our members. But if I were to do that you would likely flip back to another page in this magazine, and since you have read this far I do not want to do that to you.

It is my hope you believe in not only what the MiGCSA does but why we do it. Your membership is not tied to what you get but what you are a part of. To steal a line from history, ask not what your chapter can do for you, but what you can do for your chapter. Perhaps that is a little grandiose, ok probably a lot, but it does tie into the belief that it is not your chapter or association but that you are the MiGCSA. You and all of the members who believe in our unique and fantastic industry that is unlike any other. That you believe the MiGCSA is the best conduit to bring us together for the betterment of the entire industry which includes every single one of us.

So when you think about why you are a member I ask you not to think of it as a purchase of goods or services. Not in the same terms you look at your local grocery or cable bill for direct cost to return. I want you to think of it more in terms of an investment in you, and investment in your profession, an investment of belief in the importance of community and common goals and ideas. Your membership dues do not come to us, they come to all of us. The Board and I thank you for being a member and for hopefully renewing your membership.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
MiGCSA Executive Director



When failure is not an option.



 **Lexicon™**  
Intrinsic™ brand fungicide

Today all eyes are on the green—and there can't be a flaw in sight. That's why we developed **Lexicon™ Intrinsic™ brand fungicide**—a foundation product that battles your toughest diseases by combining the latest in carboxamide technology with the proven success of **Insignia® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide**. It's a cornerstone you can count on for consistent, longer-lasting protection with advanced, proven plant health benefits. We stake our name on it—and so can you.

For more information please visit [betterturf.basf.us](http://betterturf.basf.us)

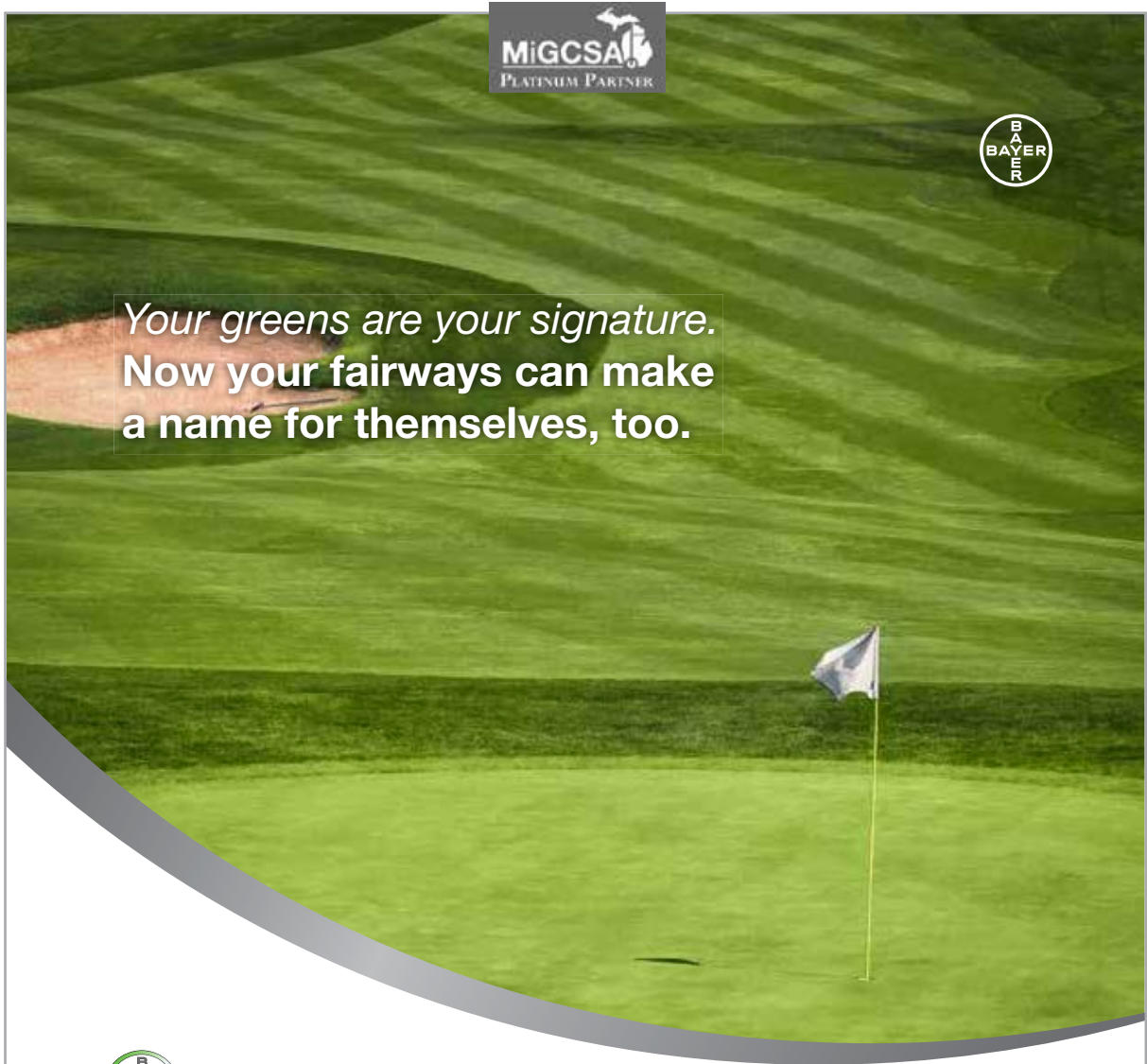
 **BASF**

The Chemical Company

Always read and follow label directions.

Lexicon and Intrinsic are trademarks and Insignia is a registered trademark of BASF. © 2014 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.





*Your greens are your signature.*  
**Now your fairways can make  
a name for themselves, too.**



## Fairway Solutions

POWERED BY *StressGard™*

Follow us on Twitter @BayerGolf



The **BackedbyBayer** app is available for download at the iTunes store.

### Introducing Bayer Fairway Solutions.

It's the first fungicide program developed specifically for fairways. Featuring new Fiata® StressGard™ and Mirage™ StressGard™, Bayer Fairway Solutions is the only plant health and disease management program designed with the fairway in mind. Finally, there's a fairway solution that delivers at the caliber of your greens program.

**Rob Pylar | 248-330-2638 | robert.pylar@bayer.com**

Bayer Fairway Solutions also includes:  
Interface® StressGard™ | Tartan® StressGard™ | 26GT®



When failure is not an option.

NEW!

 **Lexicon™**  
Intrinsic™ brand fungicide

Today all eyes are on the green—and there can't be a flaw in sight. That's why we developed **Lexicon™ Intrinsic™ brand fungicide**—a foundation product that battles your toughest diseases by combining the latest in carboxamide technology with the proven success of **Insignia® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide**. It's a cornerstone you can count on for consistent, longer-lasting protection with advanced, proven plant health benefits. We stake our name on it—and so can you.

For more information please visit [betterturf.basf.us](http://betterturf.basf.us)

 **BASF**

The Chemical Company

Always read and follow label directions.

Lexicon and Intrinsic are trademarks and Insignia is a registered trademark of BASF. © 2014 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.





**A 2 Z** and **Fairway Starter** are two Golf Pallet Solutions that qualify as Spotlight Brand Products

@SyngentaTurf

©2014 Syngenta. Important: Always read and follow label instructions. Some products may not be registered for sale or use in all states or counties. Please check with your state or local Extension Service to ensure registration status. Banner Maxx®, Briskway™, Daconil Action™, Daconil Ultrex®, GreenTrust™, Headway®, Heritage®, Medallion®, Primo Maxx®, the Alliance Frame, the Purpose Icon and the Syngenta logo are trademarks of a Syngenta Group Company. All other trademarks used herein are the property of their respective company.



A 2 Z Solution



Fairway Starter Solution

Visit **GreenTrust365.com/Golf** for a complete list of qualifying spotlight brands.

Follow us on Twitter @BayerGolf



The **BackedbyBayer** app is available for download at the iTunes store.

solution that delivers at the caliber of your greens program.

**Rob Pylar** | 248-330-2638 | robert.pylar@bayer.com

Bayer Fairway Solutions also includes:  
 Interface® StressGard™ | Tartan® StressGard™ | 26GT®